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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009

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REMEMBRANCE

A life-changing journey

KAESHA FORAND
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — For Mary Van Ruysen, this year's Remembrance Day ceremony had a deeper meaning.

Off the heels of a life-changing Legion youth leaders' pilgrimage of remembrance in France, Belgium and Holland with about 30 other Canadians, this year's service will be "more meaningful to me because I know the cost and extent of sacrifice."

LIONS CLUB: Volunteers collect about 1,600 boxes of food for local food bank

Fighting hunger with generosity

KAESHA FORAND
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The shelves were bare.

Basics such as peanut butter, jam and canned meat had to be purchased to help feed the need in Port Colborne.

However, thanks to Saturday's Lions Food Drive, shelves at the Inter-Church Food Bank of Port Colborne and District will be overflowing with thousands of pounds of food.

Hundreds of volunteers gathered at Christian Life Assembly for the event that can only be described as organized chaos.

For Mary-Ann Kantymir, volunteering in the food drive continues a tradition her father started 17 years ago.

In 1992, William (Bill) Kantymir — a Lions Club member — founded the food drive. He saw 14 successful food drives before he passed away two years ago.

He saw a need for it and like anything it grows over time," she

said while canvassing the east side of Port with five other volunteers.

"There is always a need for this. Dad trained Dan Fucso — he showed them the ropes and they're doing a great job."

Mary-Ann's grandfather even worked the food drive until he died at the age of 92.

"My family has always been into volunteering."

She and other canvassers saw great generosity in times where many residents may be struggling. Many residents left food on their front porches, and others donated money.

Ted Rabski made his food drive debut to help his son Matt collect community service hours by canvassing the east side to collect food.

"It was a great day and I feel really good. You get to the door and people light up," Ted said. "We've always wanted to do it."



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Volunteers sort through food donations at the Christian Life Assembly Saturday for the 17th annual Port Colborne Lions Food Drive.

See FOOD DRIVE | PAGE 8

See Inside: **PUPU'S**
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■ REMEMBRANCE: More than 40 cemeteries visited overseas

Couple takes pilgrimage of remembrance

FROM PAGE 1

From July 11 to 25, Van Ruyven and her husband Joe visited more than 40 cemeteries and took part in 15 remembrance ceremonies.

When ones go into Belgium and Ypres, it's First World War territory. Some cemeteries have only 100 graves, she said. Those cemeteries are small compared to Second World War cemeteries which can be the final resting place for 2,000 to 2,500 soldiers.

The group visited Juno Beach and explored the Canadian-funded museum which opened in 2003, on the 59th anniversary of the D-Day landing.

"It's a beautiful sandy beach."

At Vimy Ridge, she had the opportunity to see a delegation of active Canadian Forces on their way to the annual March for Four Days, where forces trek 30 miles a day.

"It was very interesting for me to see them because they're so representative of Canada today. Very multicultural and very well dressed."

The poem *In Flanders Fields* which is synonymous with Remembrance Day, was written by Flanders and Van Ruyven went to the field where John McRae wrote the poem in a hospital during the First World War in memory of a fallen comrade.

Currently, Flanders is an agricultural area, with fields filled with crops and cemeteries. And each cemetery, is "immaculate and neatly kept."

Visiting the cemeteries and landmarks brought on "complex emotions. There's a huge sense of grief for those young Canadian men. They were somebody's brother, sweetheart, son," she said.

"If you don't look beyond it to see how people are living, you see it as a big waste. You see people living in peace now, but it's still a big loss."

There are about 1.7 million soldiers from Commonwealth countries buried in more than 150 countries. Vimy Ridge bears the names of soldiers whose bodies were never recovered.

In preparation for her pilgrimage, she went to Port Colborne's cenotaph and copied names of soldiers who perished during the wars and tried to find their resting place during her cemetery visits.

She found a number of the graves using a Veterans Affairs Canada website and made coal etchings of the graves.

As a teacher at St. John Bosco Elementary School, she hopes to use the etchings and information to display the art throughout the school and to one day use them as Remembrance Day learning assignments.

During the pilgrimage, she hoped to meet people who experienced the war first-hand.

At Chateau D'Audrieu, a hotel/restaurant, she learned of more cruel treatment of Canadian POW's, this time from a brother and sister, who were youths during the war and witnessed events in 1944.

The sister watched from a window where more than 60 years ago, Canadian soldiers were brutalized by German soldiers, who would later shoot them in the woods and of other soldiers who were interrogated and later found dead.

"After the Germans retreated, she found a severely wounded German soldier they had left behind. She gave him aspirin and Calvaldos (alcohol) but he was still crying so she asked her mother what she should do. Her mother said 'take a log and hit him with it. Kill the bastard.'"

"He begged her not to turn him into the Canadians, because he was sure he would be tortured. When the Canadians arrived, they gave him a cigarette, chocolate and a shot of morphine, and then shipped him off to hospital in an ambulance."

She heard a number of horrific stories of death, torture and bravery and visited those same locations. While walking in fields and streets where fighting occurred, bullet shells and live ammunition still litter the countryside. Uniform buttons and barbed wire is still out in the open.

With 100,000 soldiers whose remains were never found, on occasion, unmarked graves are stumbled upon.

"The evidence is everywhere."

That reality struck when a member of a group, who is also a police officer, standing at the edge of a sugar-beet field, noticed a piece of a hip bone and arm bone. He brushed away some dirt to rebury the bones when he it became apparent they were standing above a soldier's remains.

"I always wondered before how could a mother let her



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Mary Van Ruyven displays coal etchings she and her husband traced from the graves of Port Colborne and Welland soldiers buried overseas.

son go off to war. How could she go on after. I realized some things are worth fighting for. I realized somebody had to fight and it makes me proud to be a Canadian."

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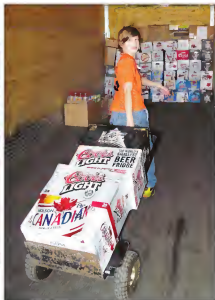
Helping out is on the menu

Hundreds of volunteers helped make this weekend's Port Colborne Lions Food Drive a success. Below are additional pictures of work that went into ensuring food bank cupboards are stocked to help those in need.

— Kaesha Forand, Staff Photos



Above: Matt and Ted Rabski load food donations.
Upper right: Devlin Mayne loads boxes into the trailer.



Left: Heather Filson tosses a package of noodles to a member of the Central United Youth Group.

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ourview

Local food drive fills a need

It's been said it takes a village to raise a child.

On Saturday, it was proven it takes a city like Port Colborne to feed neighbours in need.

The 17th annual Lions Club Food Drive was held last Saturday and hundreds of residents turned out to collect, pack and transport food donations to the Inter-Church Food Bank of Port Colborne and District.

It's no small feat, and organizers Dan and Jan Fusco with Lions and Lioness groups, in addition to local churches and volunteer organizations, deserve a pat on the back.

It takes quite a bit of planning to organize an event of this magnitude to help residents in need.

Although there was a fear that fewer donations would be left on door steps, the city pulled through and donated 1,800 boxes of food.

This reporter went out on a food collection run and witnessed three special contributions.

After knocking on a door, one elderly lady had forgotten about the food drive and said she didn't have anything ready. A few moments later, a car pulled up beside canvassers — it was the lady with a bag full of food. She wanted to make sure she caught up with them to provide her donation.

In another instance, a little boy was running down the sidewalk with a bag of food because his parents forgot.

In a third instance, a lady was in her car and leaving her home when she saw someone knocking on her door. When the volunteer told her he was canvassing for the food drive, she pulled out her cheque book and cut the food drive a \$20 cheque.

Surely there were a number of special incidences throughout the city where people's generosity warmed the hearts of volunteers.

Without this food drive, hundreds of families wouldn't be able to have supper on the table or children would go to school hungry.

But we must not forget the need continues throughout the year. Once the food drive supplies dwindle and local businesses and organizations have made their contributions, donations are needed to help keep the food bank going through the summer.

The need doesn't come once a year, it's there 365 days a year.

■ EDUCATION: Local students send cards to soldiers in Afghanistan



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Students at DeWitt Carter Elementary School are already planning on spreading Christmas cheer to Canadian soldiers fighting in Afghanistan with handmade Christmas cards. Grade 6 student Rosie Culp and kindergarten student Audrey Bilous worked together on their card that will be sent overseas.

■ readers' views

Toasting to those who made martini night a success

I would like to thank everyone who attended the @27 Martini Night in support of the United Way of South Niagara. Together we raised \$2,300 for a great organization.

Not only did the attendees contribute to this great event, but a number of our fantastic customers, who couldn't attend, donated anyway.

I would like to thank our staff for a

job well done, also our friends at GiantFM for their ongoing support.

A big thanks to Brent and Jenny's No Frills in Port Colborne, The Party Shoppe, Sysco Foodservice, Welland Bakery, and Seacore Seafood for their support.

Thanks again. See you next year.

— Mike and Linda Sloat, @27

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■ WORLD ISSUES

Last exit from Afghanistan



Gwynne Dyer

There must be a better way to rig an election.

First, the Western powers occupying Afghanistan let President Hamid Karzai stay in the job for months after his term actually expired, on the grounds that an election in the late summer would be easier to arrange. They finally held the election in August and declared it a shining success: Karzai, Washington's man in Kabul, had been re-elected, even though turnout nationally was only 30%. (In the Taliban-dominated south, it was only 5%.)

President Barack Obama, who was already under great pressure to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, declared that "This was an important step forward in the Afghan people's effort to take control of their future." And then it all fell apart.

As the evidence emerged that up to a third of the votes allegedly cast for Karzai had been fraudulent, the U.S. backed away from celebrating his "re-election." Indeed, the fraud was so blatant and massive that even the Afghans began to choke on it, and various American emissaries threatened and bullied Karzai into accepting a run-off vote against his closest rival in the first round of voting, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah.

That vote would have been held Nov. 7, but Abdullah knew that he would lose again. He belongs to the Tajik ethnic group, and there are twice as many Pashtuns (Karzai's ethnic group) in Afghanistan as there are Tajiks. So Abdullah complained that the election officials conducting this run-off would be exactly the same men who had rigged the first round — which was quite true — and demanded their resignation.

Karzai refused to remove them, Abdullah used that as an excuse to withdraw from the election, and last Sunday the run-off was cancelled. Karzai was proclaimed president once again on the basis of the discredited first-round vote, and the whole sorry mess was abandoned.

But there is a silver lining: If Obama wants to bail out of Afghanistan, he now has an excellent excuse for doing so.

The pathetic shameries of the past few months has had relatively little impact on public opinion in Afghanistan, where Karzai's democratic "legitimacy" was never much of an issue.

See GWYNNE DYER | PAGE 5

■ GWYNNE DYER

Now is Obama's best chance to pull out troops

FROM PAGE 4

His power, such as it is, has always depended on U.S. military support and access to Western aid, not on votes. But the fiasco has had a significant impact on public opinion in the Western countries whose troops are fighting in Afghanistan. Actual Western military casualties in Afghanistan have not been very high: just more than 900 American soldiers have been killed there, together with 200 British, 140 Canadians, and much smaller numbers from other NATO countries. But the loss rate has been mounting steadily, as has the sense of futility back home: a *Washington Post*-ABC News opinion poll late last month found only 47% of Americans support a further build-up of American troops in Afghanistan, while 49% opposed it.

The declining support for the war is driven largely by a growing perception that it is unwinnable. If the U.S. army is losing ground in Afghanistan after eight years in the country and four previous invading armies from the industrialized world (three British and one Russian) have been forced to withdraw, why should we believe that this time is going to be any different? The constantly repeated assertion that withdrawal from Afghanistan would lead to a surge in terrorist attacks on the West is losing credibility. It was always nonsense: terrorists don't need bases to plan their attacks. Regular armies need bases, but all terrorists need is a couple of safe houses somewhere. Controlling Afghanistan is almost entirely irrelevant to Western security and that reality is beginning to seep

out into the public discussion.

A dramatic recent example of this was the resignation late last month of Matthew Hoh, a former Marine captain and Iraq veteran who had joined the State Department and was working as the top American official in Zabul province in eastern Afghanistan.

"My resignation is based not upon how we are pursuing the war, but why and to what end?" he wrote in his resignation letter, which got considerable exposure in the U.S. media. "I fail to see the value or worth in continued U.S. casualties."

If Obama can extricate himself from the tactical minutiae about whether to send 40,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, or 20,000, or none, and focus on the larger question of why the U.S. is occupying the country at all, he can still save himself. Now is his best chance to pull out, because the political train-wreck in Kabul gives him an ideal opportunity to renege on his foolish promises to pursue the war in Afghanistan until victory. If he misses this opportunity, he may never get another, for it will inevitably, inexorably become his war, and the Americans who are killed there from now on will have died on his orders. Once that kind of burden descends on a politician, it becomes almost impossible for him to change course and admit that those deaths were futile. In that case, the Afghanistan war will eventually destroy him.

Gwynne Dyer's latest book, *Climate Wars*, was published recently in Canada by Random House, and Vintage.

"If he misses this opportunity, he may never get another, for it will inevitably, inexorably become his war, and the Americans who are killed there from now on will have died on his orders."

Gwynne Dyer

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MUSEUM: Donations to fund model boat named after Port Colborne



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo
Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum received a \$500 boost from Port Colborne resident and former para-trooper John Feduck recently to help pay for the construction of a model Castle Class Corvette HMCS Humbstone. Museum curator Stephanie Powell Baswick displays the boat's crest. She said the costly project will rely on donations and Joseph Vella has been commissioned to create the boat named after Port Colborne.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW AND AUCTION: Nov. 20 at Portal Village



MAGGIE RIOPELLE Staff Photo

Portal Village is hosting its Christmas Craft Show and progressive auction on Friday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds will be used to benefit residents — including entertainment and recreational or educational programs. Jennifer Shelton, residential service director, and Jen Parker, recreational director of Portal Village display some of the items.

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PHOTO CONTEST TO CAPTURE PORT'S BEST STREETScape

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne Marine Heritage Museum is looking for Port's best streetscape.

The museum is holding its 5th annual photo contest and amateur photographers are asked to submit their best photo for the contest.

The photo must be a minimum of 8x10 inches, framed and matted. An entry fee of \$10 is required for the first photo, and \$5 for each photo after that with all proceeds going towards the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives.

Submissions can be dropped off at the archive building between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. or at the museum between noon and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, with the photographer's name, phone number and photo title attached to the back of the photo.

Photography submissions will be due by Nov. 28 to be judged on Nov. 30.

The winning photo will hang in the archives building and the winning photographer will win 500 4x6 prints from Photo Graphic Memories in Boggio Pharmacy.

—InPort News Staff



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UP

The Ugly Truth

■ **COUNCIL:** Mayor unveils hockey trophy named after Cpl. Tyler Crooks

New annual award to honour memory of local hero

JOHN VESSOVAN
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE—A new award to be given out annually by the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League's Golden Horseshoe Conference will keep the memory alive of Cpl. Tyler Crooks.

The Cpl. Tyler Crooks Memorial Award will be presented to the Golden Horseshoe's player of the year on March 1, 2010, at the conference's awards banquet at Club Roma in St. Catharines.

The winner of this new award will display excellence in hockey, education and community involvement. The trophy is different from the annual most valuable player award handed out which recognizes excellence in hockey alone.

At Monday night's Port Colborne council meeting the trophy was unveiled by Mayor Vance Badawey; as well as Golden Horseshoe convener Blake Evenson and conference secretary Richard VanderHaeghe.

The winner will also be the Golden Horseshoe's nominee for the Ontario Hockey Association's Junior B player of the year award, going up against the top players in the Western Conference and the Midwest Conference of the GOJHL. The recipient will also take home a \$500 scholarship donated by the City of Port Colborne.

Crooks, a Port Colborne native and Canadian soldier, was killed by a roadside bomb while serving Canada in Afghanistan in March. His death shocked the small Niagara community and residents here showed lots of support for his family and friends with services at local schools and churches.



Richard VanderHaeghe, Golden Horseshoe Conference secretary left, and Golden Horseshoe convener Blake Evenson unveil the Cpl. Tyler Crooks Memorial Award Monday night.

JOHN VESSOVAN Staff Photo

Crooks was with November Company, Royal Canadian Regiment based in Petawawa, Ont. He was 24 years old. Crooks, who attended DeWitt Carter then Lakeshore Catholic High School, was known in the local hockey community because he once played for the old Port Colborne Sailors.

Having such an award was VanderHaeghe's idea. He took his idea to the Golden Horseshoe's meeting of team owners and governors and they unanimously approved it.

"They couldn't say yes fast enough. It's such a special trophy it couldn't be more fitting than to have it named after Cpl. Tyler Crooks," VanderHaeghe said Monday night.

"Of all the trophies it's the hardest one to win because you have to combine excellence in three categories — in hockey, while maintaining a high education standard and high involvement in the community. The player who wins it is going to be a very special person."

VanderHaeghe said he asked Crooks' family for their blessing, which they gave. "They were very gracious. They're very happy to have their son's name on the trophy," he added.

Evenson called the trophy the most elite award a player can win and it will no doubt "keep his memory alive."

Badawey, a former junior hockey player himself, said it's "truly special" to have the hockey community come together and honour their fallen friend.

Leo Lostracco, who represents the conference at the OHA level, said it's important to recognize a player not just for his hockey exploits, but also for his love for his community and country.

"It's all the things Tyler stood and died for," Lostracco said.

Evenson said the conference is trying to get permission to put the award at Westside Arena where fans can get a glimpse of it. He said owners and general managers of all eight teams in the Golden Horseshoe should start thinking now of potential nominees for the Crooks award. The process for selecting a winner will begin in January.

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FOOD DRIVE

Port Colborne residents extend their generosity

FROM PAGE 1

After canvassing sections of the city, volunteers with full trucks and trailers in tow made their way to Christian Life Assembly, on Barrick Rd., where a gym full of volunteers had organizing systems to sort and pack food.

Expired food was thrown away, cereal was stacked and cans were packed.

Organizers Dan and Jan Pucuo with Lion and Lioness volunteers, helped oversee the afternoon.

"It's very good. The people of Port Colborne are very generous again. We thought it would be a problem because of the economy," Dan said. "There's quite a bit of food."

Girl guides Holly Lacelle and friend Karennia Klauk were enjoying a hot dog lunch break from sorting food. Both girls said they enjoyed sorting food for those in need.

Jan Pucuo said small contributions, such as an envelope with

change bearing a child's writing "To poor people, love Katie and Ryan," make all the difference.

"Residents are extremely generous and I think we're doing OK. Everybody is pitching in and helping out," she said.

Food Basics and No Frills donated food and beverages to feed volunteers and Fontaine's Trucking provided a transport truck. Groups such as Central United youth group, scouts, clubs, Optimist Club and students from local schools all pitched in.

Inter-Church Food Bank coordinator Mieke Van Es needs the need first hand.

She said a few items such as pasta, sauce and soup were nearing their end, but other necessities only last a few months.

"During the last six months we had an average of 225 families per month," Van Es said. "We handed out food for almost 3,100 people."

The food drive collected about 1,600 boxes of food and \$1,655 in donations. Dan Pucuo said last year about 1,800 boxes of food were collected, however, less money was donated.

WAINFLEET

Township charts future with new official plan

INPORT NEWS Staff

WAINFLEET — The township is charting its future by taking the next steps to creating its official plan.

The consulting firm Sorensen, Gravelly and Lowes Planning Associates of Toronto began the process with two visioning sessions in spring 2008.

"We're at the stage where the background reports are summarized in one document," said township planning manager Chuck Miller. The 90-page issues and opportunities report is being reviewed by advisory committees and will be available on the township's website next week. The document will be the subject of discussion on Nov. 21, at the fire hall. The session begins with 8:30 a.m. registration, and discussion at 9 a.m.

"The meeting on the 21st is to allow the consultants to exchange information with interested people," Miller said, noting participants can either read the document before the session, or hear a summary of the day of the visioning session.

The \$150,000 official plan will replace the original plan drafted in 1980, amended several times since its creation. The new plan is expected to chart the township's future for the next 20 years.


Port Village Christmas Craft Show & Progressive Auction
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WEDNESDAY MORNING

9:30am-10:45am

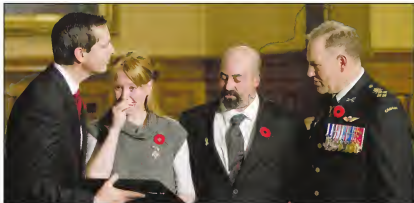
(gentle beginners) Port Library

MONDAY EVENINGS

6:30pm-8:00pm (All Levels) Lakes Hall

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■ **REMEMBRANCE:** Queen's Park presents Crooks family with plaque

GREG HENKENHAF Sun Media

In a tribute to fallen Canadian Forces, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and General Walter Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff, present families of fallen soldiers with a plaque. Receiving the plaque is Cpl. Tyler Crooks' fiancée Kelly Maxwell and his dad Alfred Crooks. Tyler was killed by an IED in the Zhari District, Afghanistan.

■ **localbriefs****ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

The Port Colborne Optimists Club is holding its annual Christmas bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Lions Hall, 49 Chippawa Rd., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be 16 unique crafters and a penny sale in the hall with a bake table and tea room downstairs. The public is invited to come out to a day of Christmas shopping and a homemade soup and sandwich lunch. Admission is free with the chance to win

door prizes, in addition to ticket sales for a quilt draw. All proceeds from this event goes to help fund the club's programs for the children of Port Colborne.

ALL WELCOME TO CARVING CLUB

The Bethel Lakeside Carving Club meets Wednesdays at Bethel Community Centre in Bethel. Meetings are from 9 a.m. to noon, and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. This is a fun club; all are welcome to attend — beginners or expert carvers. For more information, contact Len McLaren at 905-834-7727.

— InPort News Staff

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Township of Wainfleet

**Official Plan Update
"Policy Directions Workshop"
Saturday November 21, 2009**

The Township of Wainfleet Official Plan is currently being updated. An Official Plan is a policy document that determines how to manage land and resources within Wainfleet to ensure a healthy and vibrant community. Public input is an important part of the multi-step Official Plan process and a number of community meetings and workshops will be held this year and next as we move forward. The first step in the process is to determine a future vision for the Township and two workshops were held on March 7 and 28, one specific to the Lakeshore Area and the other for the overall Township. A second workshop was held on June 13th to provide input on issues and options pertaining to the hamlets and agricultural areas and the Lakeshore Area. These sessions have provided considerable information and given our consultant a clear indication of how our residents envision Wainfleet in the future. The facilitator's reports on the workshops are available on the Township's web site.

We need your input; Participate in shaping the future of Wainfleet

"Background" information respecting the Township, including input from previous meetings, has been compiled by the Township's consultant, Sorensen Gravely Lowes Planning Associates, into a draft *Issues and Opportunities Report*. The draft report will be available on the Township website starting Nov. 13, 2009. The next step is to further explore and assess the potential options outlined in the report and review these with the Public to create policy directions to address the identified issues, opportunities and options. These policy directions will address not only minor modifications to address clarity matters in the Official Plan but also substantive strategic policy matters. You are encouraged to attend the "Policy Directions" workshop, and participate in roundtable discussions with other residents and stakeholders. One workshop will be held and will discuss both the Lakeshore Area and overall Township. We look forward to your attendance.

**"Policy Directions Workshop"
Saturday November 21, 2009
from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Registration 8:30 a.m. Workshop begins at 9:00 a.m. Light refreshments provided.

Location: Firefighter's Community Hall; 1947 Park Street (Behind the Fire Hall/Library) in Wainfleet

The report will be available for review on the Township website www.township.wainfleet.on.ca, starting Friday November 13, 2009. If you have any questions, please email planning@township.wainfleet.on.ca or contact Chuck Miller at 905-899-3463, ext. 225.

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■ schoolbrief

GRADE 8 AND 9 STUDENTS EXPLORE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

On Nov. 4, many events took place at Port Colborne High School. As the grade nine students left the building, some newcomers entered.

For Grade 9 students, it was the annual, Take Our Kids to Work Day. This allowed students to learn not only what their parent really does at their job but, also what it is like to be in the work force.

The second event occurring was Grade 8 visitation day. This event takes place every year for feeder schools from Port Colborne and Wainfleet.

Grade 8 students were welcomed into the bear den to help further their knowledge on what high school is really like. This event can help students choose which secondary school they will feel comfortable with

attending. Classes also took a quick tour around the school.

Later, classes were split up and a few students from each school attended small workshops experiencing high school fun including drama games, cosmetology classes, physical education activities and English workshops.

During the afternoon, students were presented with a little show that Blue Bears had put on for them. The cosmetology classes styled unrealistic hairstyles and applied outrageous makeup techniques.

Following their booming fashion show, the dance class performed a piece for the audience. This activity aimed to help future students understand that Port High has other classes aside from the usual English, math and science.

Once the day was over, both grades had made some accomplishments and had to do some thinking about their future careers and high school.

Faige Thompson, For InPort News

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

H1N1 flu calls for common sense faith

REV. THOMAS A. RARTH
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

It seems we can't look at a newspaper or turn on a TV or radio without hearing about the H1N1 flu. For the most part, the media has presented a fairly consistent message. Beyond simply reporting the facts and statistics of the number of people becoming ill and some even dying from this flu, they are doing a good job of pointing out the risks and providing information about how to protect yourself and your loved ones.

But then you start talking with friends and neighbours and colleagues and you get a whole different picture. Some people are concerned about the safety and long-term effects of vaccines. Some figure this will be no worse than a regular seasonal flu. Some see a conspiracy between drug manufacturers and governments. Some think the whole saturation of the media is just hype or that we're not getting the whole story.

It can all be very confusing. And then when you hear about people dying including children, some who were otherwise normal and healthy, it can all be very frightening.

So what do you do? Do you give in to the fear? Do you cover behind closed doors, never to venture out into public again? Or, on the other end of the spectrum, do you ignore or disbelieve the risks and go on as if nothing is wrong and nothing harmful is out there?

I would suggest living our lives with common sense and faith. The medical community has told us what the best practices are to reduce the risk. Wash your hands frequently. Don't touch your face more than necessary. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve. If you are sick, stay home so you don't spread germs to others.

Even in church, we're encouraging people to stay away if they are sick. When we share the peace, we are telling people that it's perfectly acceptable to speak the words of blessing with a

“When we share the peace, we are telling people that it's perfectly acceptable to speak the words of blessing with a nod or another gesture and they may refrain from shaking hands.”

nod or another gesture and they may refrain from shaking hands. For those concerned with drinking wine at communion from the same cup as others people, we offer the option of individual glasses that are filled from a pouring chalice, or people are free to receive just the bread. We also have hand sanitizer pumps in a few locations in the church.

That's the common sense part, but what about the faith part?

We believe and teach and trust in the grace and love of God. In baptism we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world. That doesn't mean we're magically or mystically protected from all illness or even death. It does mean that God is present with strength and comfort in time of suffering.

Does this mean that Christians are never afraid? No way.

What it means is that in the midst of confusion, doubt and fear we can live in faith, trusting in God's promise to always be with us. It means we can depend on God to bring us through times of difficulty. It means that we are part of a community of faith that walks with us in good times and bad. It means that even when illness leads to death, God accompanies us and our loved ones, holding us in his loving embrace no matter what.

So, my prayer is that we can live and walk and perhaps even struggle through this flu pandemic with faith and common sense.

God be with all of you.

Port Colborne

Portal Village Plaza



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■ **COMMUNITY:** Nov. 26 event offers special night of shopping to mark first anniversary

Crafters find a home in Maker's Market

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — While the Port Colborne market has been going on outside in the cold on Friday mornings, about a dozen local crafters and artisans have had a cozy place to show off their wares for the past year.



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photos

Barbara Grover, left, looks over some of the creations of Fleurette Campbell at the Maker's Market inside the Guild Hall. The indoor market is celebrating its first anniversary with a special night of shopping Nov. 26 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Those crafters, many selling items that couldn't stand up to the conditions outside, have found a home for themselves in the Maker's Market at the Guild Hall on Charlotte St. — items like handmade soaps made by Wendy Standish, or the sock monkeys stitched together by Fleurette Campbell.

rette Campbell.

"They make everything that you see at the market," said Marie Butts, who organizes the market for Guild Hall owner, St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church.

See MARKET | Page 12

Designing a more walkable and bikeable

Port Colborne

Let "Active Transportation" Take You Where You Want to Go!
Follow Up Session



Would you like to...

Know that your kids can walk or bike home safely on public pathways, away from cars?

Can you imagine...

Walking or biking to your errands and leaving your car behind?

Ever wanted to...

Live in a community that supports physical activity?

It's possible...

Join us for a follow up community conversation on "Designing a More Walkable and Bikeable Port Colborne." We will review the progress on priorities that were identified at our initial workshop held on October 6th, celebrate successes, re-affirm identified issues and solutions, determine if there are others that have emerged, and determine energy and resources for next steps.

Workshop Information:

Date: Thursday, November 26th, 2009

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Place: L. R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives Conference Hall, 288 King St., Port Colborne

Free of charge; a light meal will be provided

For more information and to register, please contact: Lori Kleinsmith, Safe Communities Port Colborne, 905-834-4501 ext. 32146 or pcw@hlc.ca or www.walkon.ca



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27 Holes Golf Club

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■ MARKET

Shopping event marks anniversary

FROM PAGE 11

"Some of the products you see, they cannot be outside — especially like pottery. And the sock monkeys — if it rains."

Even the food vendors would have their hands full chugging away the bees, she added.

"Most of them could not be outside."

Those vendors, and several more, are planning to celebrate the first anniversary of the Maker's Market, Thursday, Nov. 26 from 4 to 9 p.m., Butts said.

"What we're going to have is a Christmas night of shopping for the Maker's Market."

She said the event will include organic baking, gourmet foods, local artisans, and at least 15 vendors in total — all of them local.

Butts said when the church established the Maker's Market, the idea behind it was to create a community amongst the vendors and their regular customers.

"They've all become very good friends," she said.

"Same with me, every Friday I look forward to the day. It's kind of done two things. They sell their products and they've made a bit of a community."

The products the vendors are selling has also made the event popular amongst people shopping for unique items.

"They are one of a kind because they're handmade," Butts said.

"You probably could not find a duplicate of it."

■ FUNDRAISER: Support pours in for United Way at martini night event



JOE CSEH InPort News Photo

@27 in Port Colborne hosted its annual martini night fundraiser in support of the United Way's campaign. Sandy White, chair of the Port Colborne/Wainfleet United Way campaign, Mike Sloat, owner of @27 and Giant FM radio personalities Rita Fournier and Paul Wainwright were all on hand for the event.



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1ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A Special Night of Christmas Shopping

MAKERS' MARKET

Thursday, Nov. 26 • 4pm-9pm

@ Guild Hall, 72 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

featuring organic baking, gourmet food,
handcrafted items by local artisans

Serving hot apple cider, pastries, and door prizes

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A Newsletter written by Staff for the Residents of Port Colborne

NOVEMBER 2009

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- Candle Safety

AN UPDATE ON Health Care Services in Port Colborne!

Port Colborne General Hospital - Urgent Care Centre (UCC)

WHAT IS AN URGENT CARE CENTRE?

Urgent Care Centres treat many illnesses that need to be seen after-hours when physicians' offices are closed. Port Colborne's UCC is open 24/7.

WHAT DO THEY TREAT?

The UCC can treat you if you feel unwell or if you have a sprain, fracture, require sutures or have a lump or bump (less acute types of illness or injury).

WHAT IF I AM REALLY SICK OR IF IT IS A SERIOUS EMERGENCY?

If you visit the UCC and are critically ill or injured, you can be stabilized and treated by Emergency trained physicians until you are able to be

safely moved to another facility that is better equipped to treat your illness. *If you are experiencing chest pain, having difficulty breathing or stroke symptoms, call 911 immediately.*

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You will be treated by a physician, and either told to follow-up with your family physician, released to home, or transferred to another NHS facility.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY DOCTOR?

If you attend the UCC and do not have a family physician, you will be encouraged to roster with the Family Health Team or the Community Health Centre.

New Community Health Centre (CHC) & New Family Health Team (FHT)

There are many similarities between these two models of community based health care. You can sign up to a family physician at either the Community Health Centre (CHC) or the Family Health Team (FHT). Both provide team based and collaborative primary medical care. Whether you sign up at the CHC or the FHT is a personal decision that should be made between you and the physician at both clinics. Below are some similarities and differences.

	Community Health Centre (CHC)	Family Health Team (FHT)
What new services are now available in Port Colborne?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CHC has a nurse practitioner, dietitian, diabetes educator, and a family physician available to provide care to you. - CHC focus on programs and services to address economic and social conditions that can effect health such as income level, access to education, employment, etc. - Many wonderful new programs are being developed by the Health Promoters in collaboration with the attending physician at the CHC such as the Good Food Box, which supplies healthy fruits and vegetables at low cost to families to encourage healthy eating habits. - The CHC works with other service agencies in Port Colborne, such as Port Cares. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The FHT also brings many new services to Port Colborne, such as a social worker, dietitian, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, and respiratory therapist to work alongside a family physician. - The FHT physician, Dr. Xu, hopes to roster at least 1,000 patients to his FHT, and then more services can be added and more physicians can be hired to be on-site at the clinic at the Port Colborne Hospital as demand arises. - Patients requiring X-rays and Lab services provided by the NHS can access these services directly through this clinic. - Dr. Xu is also able to treat minor lumps, bumps and sprains.
Can anyone sign up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CHC generally is targeting people who have not been able to access primary care such as inner city families, youth, people with mental health issues, the elderly, newcomers to Canada and diabetics. - The CHC will not turn away patients who do not have a family physician. - You cannot roster to the CHC if you already have a family physician. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The FHT has no target population and there are no limitations on who can roster.
Who do they report to and how are they funded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Health Centres report to and are funded by the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Health Teams report to and are funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.
How do I sign up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CHC is located in the Port Village Plaza. The permanent location on King Street is under construction. <p>Port Village Plaza, 305 Steel Street, Port Colborne, 905-835-7798</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Family Health Team will be on-site at the Port Colborne General Hospital in early 2010. <p>Registration forms are available at Port Colborne City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, 905-835-2900</p>

The City of Port Colborne continues to work to ensure that current health care services are maintained and new services become available to the residents in our community.

Olympic Torch comes to Port Colborne!

Port Colborne is proud to have been selected to host the Olympic Torch and relay team members on Monday December 21st from approximately 10:15 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. The torch will begin its tour of Port Colborne at the intersection of Main Street and King's Highway 140 at 10:15 a.m., travelling west on Main Street. At King Street it will travel south to Charlotte Street where the Olympic Torch will stop at City Hall. After this stop, the torch will travel west on Charlotte Street to Steele Street, turning north on Steele Street, stopping briefly at Port Colborne High School, and then continue to Killaly Street West where it will again travel west to Westside Road and make its way towards Welland.

In celebration of this once in a generation experience, Mayor Vance Badawey would like to invite Port Colborne residents and visitors to take part in free activities for children and families throughout the day of the Olympic Torch visit.

The Hub, at 72 Charlotte Street, is hosting a community buffet breakfast in the morning from 8-10.

Community groups are holding a "mini-Olympics" in the Market Square in front of City Hall. This will consist of play-day events for children to try out. There will be a softball and fastball toss and pitch accuracy station, a free throw basketball station. A hockey event will be hosted by Golden Puck, and Ball Hockey International will be setting up a mini rink.



Port Colborne Centennial Pool is hosting a free family swim between 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The Teeder Kennedy Youth Arena is open for a free skate between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

The Roselawn Centre will be hosting a free "Family Movie Night" later in the evening. Please visit www.portcolborne.ca for further information.

Is there a related event that your community group would like to host? Please call Allaina Kane to discuss any ideas at 905-834-1668.

The next organizing meeting for the Olympic Torch event is being held on Wednesday November 18th at 4:30 p.m. in the committee room on the third floor of City Hall for all involved groups. We would be glad to have you join us!

H1N1 FLU VIRUS

"It's a different flu season this year." This is the message we all have been hearing with respect to the H1N1 Flu Virus. The City will be keeping residents up-to-date on information concerning the H1N1 flu virus via a link on the City's website.

This link includes direct links to the Public Health Agency of Canada, Centre for Disease Control and the Niagara Region websites which are updated immediately with any new information or changes in protocol.

Information can also be obtained by calling the Region's H1N1 Information Line at 905-688-8248, ext. 7950 or toll free at 1-888-505-6074. This line is open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

City of Port Colborne
Central Business District
Community Improvement Plan



The City of Port Colborne is soliciting your input into the development of the Central Business District Community Improvement Plan (CIP).

The Public Consultation Meeting will be held on:

Date: Tuesday November 24, from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Address: Council Chambers, City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, City of Port Colborne

This Public Consultation Meeting is not a legislated Public Meeting under the Planning Act.

A Community Improvement Plan is a document that provides the framework to guide re-development and improvement within a defined area of a ward. A CIP allows a municipality to acquire, rehabilitate and dispose of land and provide grants and loans to owners and tenants, as well as to undertake infrastructure and public space improvements.

The City's Community Improvement Plan Consultant will give a 30 minute presentation starting at 6:15 p.m. The Consultant will outline the Project and provide information regarding the initial components of the Central Business District Community Improvement Plan.

There will be an opportunity to ask the consultant questions after the presentation.

Copies of the Consultant's presentation and additional information on brownfield redevelopment will be available at the public meeting and on the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca.

Lindsay Richardson, Community/Policy Planner
Ph: 905-835-2901 ex 129, Email: lindsayrichardson@portcolborne.ca

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

City of Port Colborne
Olde Humberstone Main Street Community
Improvement Plan
Streetscape Design



The City of Port Colborne is soliciting your input into the proposed streetscape design for the Old Humberstone Main Street Community Improvement Plan area.

The Public Consultation Meeting will be held on:

Date: Thursday November 26, from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Address: Council Chambers, City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, City of Port Colborne

This Public Consultation Meeting is not a legislated Public Meeting under the Planning Act.

The City's Design Consultant will give a 30 minute presentation starting at 6:15 p.m. The Consultant will outline the design and provide information on the proposed streetscape design details including:

- Sidewalk and roadway surfaces;
- Landscaping treatments;
- Lighting; and
- Fencing and improvements to the Weir bridge

There will be an opportunity to ask the consultant questions after the presentation.

Copies of the Consultant's presentation and additional information on brownfield redevelopment will be available at the public meeting and on the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca.

We invite you to participate in this event and welcome your input. For more information, please contact:

Lindsay Richardson, Community/Policy Planner
Ph: 905-835-2901 ex 129, Email: lindsayrichardson@portcolborne.ca

what's happening? what's happening in...

december

FARMERS' MARKET

During the month of December, the Farmers' Market will be held from 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the following dates:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2009

Commencing January 8th, 2010, the Market will be held on that day and every Friday thereafter from 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



FREE METERED PARKING FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

To promote and encourage shopping in the downtown core and at the Port Colborne Farmers' Market, motorists may park free at any meter in Port Colborne for the month of December.

PLEASE NOTE: All other parking infractions will be strictly enforced.

Parking in handicapped zones without a permit
Parking in fire routes
Parking in prohibited areas (loading zones, corner restrictions)
Parking blocking a driveway
Parking over the time limit in 1 and 2 hour zones etc.

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR HOLIDAY CLOSING

Please be advised that City Hall will close for the holiday season on Thursday, December 24th, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. and will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 4th, 2010.

The City Works / Parks Yard will be closed December 25th and 28th, 2009 for Christmas Day and Boxing Day and January 1st, 2010 for New Year's Day.

Emergency calls throughout the closure will be handled in the usual fashion by calling 905-835-5079 (24 hour service).

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

One Committee of the Whole/Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, December 14th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.** at City Hall Council Chambers, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne.

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS: 2010 DOG LICENSES

City of Port Colborne 2010 Dog Licenses will be available for purchase on November 15th, 2009, and are due March 15th, 2010.

THE FOLLOWING DISCOUNTED RATES APPLY FOR LICENSES PURCHASED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 15TH:

Un-Neutered/Un-spayed Dogs: \$25.00 • Neutered/Spayed Dogs (proof required): \$15.00

After March 15th the regular rates of \$35.00 and \$25.00 apply.

TAGS MAY BE PURCHASED AT:

City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street • The Port Colborne Animal Shelter, 1080 Elm Street
Independent Discount Pet Supply, 730 Main Street West • Pet Valu, Westside Place Plaza, Westside Road

Dog owners who fail to purchase a dog license before the due date are liable for a set fine under Part 1 Provincial Offences Act.

Peter Senese, Director of Community & Corporate Services and Treasurer

Christmas in Port Colborne

The holiday season is upon us again, and there is no more festive place to be than Port Colborne. Below is a list of events happening in Port Colborne over the coming weeks to celebrate this magical time of year. More details and additional events can be found at www.portcolborne.ca, where you will find an expanded schedule.

NOVEMBER 12TH TO 14TH:

Christmas Open House, Downtown Port Colborne.

NOVEMBER 21ST:

Blue Suede Shoes Elvis Christmas Show, Roselawn Centre; 7:30 p.m.
Call 905-834-0833 for more information.

NOVEMBER 28TH:

Winter Celebration House Tour & Craft Show;
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Call 905-834-1233 for more information.

DECEMBER 4TH:

Moonlight Madness, Downtown Port Colborne,
shops open until 9:00 p.m. or later!

Gateway Presents: Come to the North,
Lock B Gateway Park; 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 5TH:

Santa Arrives in Port Colborne by Tugboat,
Downtown Port Colborne; 1:00 p.m.

Pictures with Santa, Downtown Port Colborne;
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Santa Claus Parade, Downtown Port Colborne; evening.

DECEMBER 6TH:

Grand Old Christmas Festival, Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum.

DECEMBER 7TH TO 12TH:

Pudding & Sauce at Arabella's Tea Room, Port Colborne
Historical & Marine Museum.

DECEMBER 9TH:

"The Spirit of Christmas: A Benefit for Santa's Helpers and Port Care", Port Colborne Country Club; 7:00 p.m.
For more information contact Terry Kadiwell at 905-834-2173 or Edith Wagner at 905-834-9765

DECEMBER 11TH AND 12TH:

"Wrap it up" Weekend – Complimentary gift wrapping,
Downtown Port Colborne.

DECEMBER 21ST:

Olympic Torch Run, Gateway District and Downtown Port Colborne; events all day!

DECEMBER 27TH:

Boxing Week Sales Begin, Gateway District
and Downtown Port Colborne.

DECEMBER 31ST:

CASCO New Years Eve Kids Carnival, Westside Arena; afternoon.
New Years Eve Fireworks, Downtown Port Colborne; evening.

PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL & MARINE MUSEUM

*L.R. Wilson Heritage Research
Archives & Visitor Centre*

It has been and continues to be a very busy time here at the Museum and Archives. Upon completion of a very successful Canal Days in the summer and just recently an evening devoted to celebrating the International Year of Astronomy at the Archives, we are now looking forward to several more exciting events.

DIGITIZING THE MUSEUM'S WAR OF 1812 COLLECTION

Commencing Monday, November 2 and for the following three weeks, the Museum's collection of material pertaining to the War of 1812 will be "digitized" by a team of visiting professionals on site at the Archives. The Museum is participating, along with other Niagara museums, in this cutting-edge programme, by making artifacts from their War of 1812 collections available for researchers online. The Bicentennial of this "International" event is fast approaching and the Niagara region will be an integral part of the commemorative events planned. What better way to initially involve the public than providing them with an opportunity to view related items online.

5TH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

At the same time, the Museum will be holding its 5th Annual Photo Contest, generously sponsored by Boggi's Pharmacy. As in previous years, a theme has been provided for the participating photographers, with this year's being "Best Streetscape Photo in Port Colborne." Entry forms and details will be available at the Museum. First Prize will be 500 FREE digital prints (4X6), courtesy of Boggi's Pharmacy. Deadline for submissions will be Saturday, November 28, 2009 by 5 p.m. at the Museum. So keep your eyes peeled and cameras ready for that "winning" street scene!

NEW EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY!

Canadian Winter -Hibernator or Activator? is the theme of the NEW exhibit now on display at the Museum until the end of the year. Which is it for you?? Or better yet, decide after seeing the exhibit. Admission is free as always and open seven days a week 12-5.

GRAND OLD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Last but not least, on Sunday, December 6, from noon to 4 p.m., is an annual favourite event: The Grand Old Christmas Festival. Be sure to mark this date on your calendars and be prepared to go back in time to experience a traditional Christmas. Santa Claus will be in attendance in the old school-house, along with carriage rides, pioneer activities, traditional roasted chestnuts and hot cider and many yuletide items available for purchase. A Christmas tree decorating contest amongst various local schools will take place in the Archives. There will be something for everyone in the family and the time will enjoyably fly by.

Drinking Water

License Update

The City of Port Colborne has recently received confirmation from the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), that the Operational Plan submitted as part of our Municipal Drinking Water License application (see below) has been accepted, and the City's Operating Authority (consisting of staff from the Public Works, Water Department and the Engineering and Operations Department) has been recommended for accreditation. The CGSB (Canadian General Standards Board) auditor identified no deficiencies within the Operational Plan.

With our Accreditation in place, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) issued the City a draft Drinking Water Works Permit and a draft Municipal Drinking Water License. City Staff reviewed the draft permit and licence and returned them with comments to MOE (Ministry of the Environment) staff. Staff anticipate that the licence and permit will be received before the end of December.

Once the DWWP (Drinking Water Works Permit) is received, all items required to have and maintain a MDWL (Municipal Drinking Water License), listed below, will be complete – with one exception. A Financial Plan (item 4) detailing how the City will fund the drinking water system must be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing by July 1, 2010.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 there are five items that must be in place prior to a Municipal Drinking Water License being granted:

1. A Drinking Water Works permit (DWWP)
2. An accepted Operational Plan
3. Accreditation of the Operating Authority
4. A Financial Plan and
5. A Permit to Take Water (PTTW)

More details regarding the City's Operational Plan and Quality Management System can be found on the City's website: www.portcolborne.ca

FLOW MONITORING PROJECT

It is a well known fact that all drinking water distribution systems experience some kind of leakage, and Port Colborne's distribution system is no different. Watermain breaks can be the most dramatic leakage, with roads flooding or sinkholes forming. However, many leaks do not always find their way to the surface, or by the time they reach the surface and are identified, hundreds of thousands, if not millions of litres of treated water may have been lost into the surrounding earth. The loss of this treated drinking water represents a huge cost to the City, as our drinking water is purchased from the Region of Niagara, who operates the Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant and supplies water to the Port Colborne Distribution System. In September 2008, the City contracted a company to determine just how much water was being lost from the distribution system. The consultant determined that this loss, called "unaccounted for water loss" represented approximately 30% of the water purchased from the Region.

Therefore, in an effort to curb unaccounted for water loss within the City's distribution system, and reduce costs, the City launched the Flow Monitoring project this year. This project is using wireless technology, together with the Region's SCADA Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition programming, to monitor, in real-time, the water usage throughout the distribution system. Therefore, when fully operational in the spring of 2010, staff will be able to determine if more water than usual is flowing to a particular area of the distribution system, and will be able to investigate and determine if a leakage has occurred. This "early response" system will allow staff to identify potential leakages in a timely manner and reduce the amount of unaccounted for water loss within the system.

LEAD SAMPLING PROGRAM

Under Ontario Regulation 170/03, the City is required to collect samples from 60 residential properties, 6 non-residential properties and 10 non-residential properties and 16 distribution samples by October 2, 2009. We are pleased to say that none of the samples collected exceeded the provincial standard of 0.010 mg/L. In fact, the average concentration of lead observed in all the samples collected during this sampling round was 0.00048 mg/L, almost 20 times lower than the provincial standard! These results indicate that lead is not a concern in water supplied to the residences and businesses in our community.

Our next round of samples will be collected early in 2010. We are always looking for volunteers, as the regulation encourages municipalities to use different residences/businesses if possible. The results are confidential, you are not required to change anything in your home/business if on the off chance high lead levels are detected in your home, and it takes about an hour of your time to complete. Therefore, if you are interested in volunteering to have your residence or business sampled, please contact the City and we'll put you on the list for the next sample round.

Again, a big thank you to the residents and businesses/organizations that volunteered to participate this year – your assistance helped assure all residents and visitors to our community that our drinking water continues to be of the highest quality.

PORT COLBORNE public library ...



\$15 Million Investment in Ontario Libraries: Library Benefits from Expanded Digital Resources

In March 2008, the Ministry of Culture announced a four-quarter investment of \$15 million to help Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) and Library Service-North (OLS-N) work collaboratively to "...support public libraries to bridge the digital divide and to provide all Ontarians with equitable access to digital information, community collections and services." As a result, the following online databases have been made available: Auto Repair Reference Centre, Career Counseling, Eureka.cc, Canadian Points of View, Teen Health and Wellness, and Gale Cengage Learning. These valuable resources are free and can be accessed at the library or from home through the library's website at <http://www.portcolbornelibrary.org>. All you need is your library card number to access these databases from home.

Genealogy Researchers!

Ancestry Library Edition is now available at the Port Colborne Library as part of the \$15 Million Investment in Ontario Public Libraries. Proquest has partnered with MyFamily.com to create Ancestry Library Edition, one of the most important genealogical collections available today with unparalleled coverage of the United States and the United Kingdom including census, vital, church, court, and immigration records, as well as record collections from Canada, East and West. Ancestry Library Edition is available only within the library, so visit us today to use this valuable resource.

Free Downloadable Audiobooks from OverDrive:

Another Service for Library Users Courtesy of the \$15 Million Investment

Port Colborne Library cardholders can now check out and download digital audiobooks anytime, anywhere by visiting our website at <http://www.portcolbornelibrary.org>.

You can browse and select audiobooks from OverDrive's growing collection of best-selling and classic titles which includes over 2600 fiction and non-fiction titles covering a wide range of genres and include juvenile and young adult titles. To check out an audiobook, all you need is a valid library card and PIN, a personal computer, and an Internet connection. You will have to install OverDrive's free Media Console software for use on a Windows operating system or Mac. Once downloaded, digital titles can be enjoyed on your computer or you can transfer them to a supported device, like an MP3 player. Many audio titles can also be burned to CD to enjoy in the car. At the end of the 7- or 14-day lending period, titles automatically expire and are returned to the collection. There are never late fees or damaged items.

This free and easy-to-use service is provided by the Port Colborne Public Library and powered by OverDrive. To check out and download audiobooks, visit <http://www.portcolbornelibrary.org>.

PC Reservation...

SELF-SERVICE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

The Library has installed PC Reservation[®] to help manage self-service scheduling of its public computer workstations. The result? No more top-of-the-hour appointments; no more wait-lines at the Information Desk to schedule appointments! If a computer is available, you simply sit down, enter your library card number and PIN to start your session. If all the computers are busy, you can choose to reserve the next available computer or book a future reservation. If there is a wait, please feel free to browse our new books, read a magazine, or pop out to grab a quick cup of coffee knowing that your appointment has been secured. Stop by the Information Desk to find out how easy it is to reserve a computer!

Wireless Internet Now Available at the Library

All you need to enjoy free wireless Internet access at the Port Colborne Public Library is your library card and your laptop. Wireless access is available during library hours. Ask at the Information Desk how to obtain a password. Don't have a library card? Ask us how you can get a membership or guest pass.

Kids Rock at the Library!

The Port Colborne Public Library has a great line-up of activities for children this fall! There are knitting and crochet classes. And of course, there's Story Time and crafts for little ones to enjoy, and a brand new club called the "Cocoa and Craft Club" for those a bit older. Come in soon and register your children for lots of fun this fall at the Library!

Tai Chi Can Exercise

Just a few minutes a day can improve your health, well-being, balance and breathing. Mondays, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Sept. 7th to Dec. 21st. Call 905-321-9536 for more information.

Films For Seniors

Films for Seniors is presented the first Wednesday of the month, October to May, at 1:30 p.m. Free admission. Free refreshments. Programs are available at the Library, December 2, 2009, 1:30 pm: "Up".

PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

310 King Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 4H1
Phone: 905-834-6512 • Fax: 905-835-5775
email: library@portcolborne.ca

~ HOURS OF SERVICE ~

MON, TUES, THURS: 10 am—5 pm
WED., FRI., SAT.: 9 am—5 pm

Arabella's Tea Room Auxiliary

The auxiliary of the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum mixing up their annual Christmas pudding and sauce—auxiliary volunteers made over 300 of the puddings for this year's festival. From left to right: Sheila Russell, Lynda Sebastiany, Rose Archer, Janet Burnett.

The Auxiliary volunteers have been busy making puddings and sauce. The puddings will be on sale at the 33rd Grand Old Christmas Festival at the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum, Sunday, December 6. The Pudding and sauce sell fast so

make sure you come early! During the week of December 7-12, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Arabella's Tea Room will be serving the ohhhhh! soooo delicious pudding and sauce with tea or coffee.

Roselawn
centre for the living arts
experience it!



Planning an Event for a Small Group?

- Wedding • Open House • Christmas Party
- Business Meeting • Bridal or Baby Shower
- Anniversary and Birthday Party
- Family and Retirement Party • Theatre Rental

LEAVE THE DETAILS TO US!

Call: 905-834-7572
suepatrick@portcolborne.ca

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Catering by "Occasions"
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WELLAND & DISTRICT Humane Society



PUPPY MILLS... A Hidden Horror!

The cruelty to animals section of Canada's Criminal Code dates back to 1892. Provincial laws vary, with Ontario having the strongest legislation. Its Animal Welfare Act requires breeders to meet standards of care, backed by \$60,000 fines and up to two years in prison. And in February, the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture formed a committee to examine problems associated with pet welfare in that province. The group is working on creating a regulation that would require mandatory registration of all places where dogs are housed, sold and bred in Quebec.

While laws are progressing, there is still a long way to go. Further legislation is needed to adequately address puppy mills. A puppy mill, according to the National Companion Animal Coalition, is any "high-volume, standardized dog-breeding operation" that keeps animals in poor health and environmental conditions. Dogs receive little or no medical treatment or socialization and are subject to breeding practices that lead to genetic defects and hereditary disorders. They are housed in inadequate kennels, often small cages, with little or no exercise or access to fresh air. Mills routinely breed their females twice a year, starting at the first heat between 6 and 9 months old.

There is no official count of the number of such establishments in Canada but estimates run to several thousand. The United States shares our problem and their numbers are far greater. Animals from such places usually fall into the hands of puppy brokers, who buy vast numbers of dogs and re-sell them to pet stores; others are sold direct from the mills through newspaper ads and internet sites. Some puppy mills give buyers false registration certificates.

Many puppies suffer from physical and behavioural problems caused by inbreeding and premature weaning.

Despite the odds, humane societies do what they can stop animal abuse and puppy mills are frequently raided. Over the past five years, Darren Grandel, OPSA Senior Inspector, has been involved in investigating some of the 400 puppy mills operating in the province.

Animal protection workers need the assistance of the general public and say these are the best ways to help stop puppy mills:

Don't buy a puppy from a pet store.

Choose an animal from a shelter, rescue group or a reputable breeder. If your local shelter does not have the dog you are looking for, visit www.petfinder.org for dogs available for adoption.

Don't buy a dog from a breeder who can't show you the mother, give you copies of veterinary health clearances for both parents and prove the pups have been well looked after and socialized.

Work for tougher laws against puppy mills. Contact your local representatives of the provincial and federal governments and indicate your concern about puppy mills.

Public awareness is vital to resolving this horrendous problem. The best way to help stop puppy mills is to educate ourselves on this subject and share our knowledge with others. Countless breeding dogs and their puppies - living in unspeakable, deplorable conditions - are depending on all of us.

A NEW LEASE ON LIFE.

107 dogs were recently transported from Louisiana to Niagara where they were welcomed by Canadian hospitality and offered the opportunity of a new lease on life.

In collaboration with a Louisiana rescue organization, B.A.R.K. (Boudreaux's Animal Rescue Krewé), Tammy Gaboury, WHHS Adoption Coordinator, organized an extremely successful adoption. The event was held in late August and Petsmart St Catharines threw out the welcome mat, allowing the adopt-a-thon to take place in their parking lot. A multitude of volunteers took turns walking the dogs, providing exercise and socialization and allowing potential adopters to witness the dogs' wonderful personalities outside of their kennels. Visitors to the event interacted with the multitude of small, medium and large dogs in a wide variety of breeds and a great many found their new best friend. A few individuals, who adopted on Thursday, came back on Friday and Saturday to say how pleased they were and how well the dogs were already doing in their new homes. Happy tails were in abundance. Eighty-two dogs were adopted and the rest were taken in by local shelters; five were brought to the Welland & District Humane Society.

Many of the problems being experienced in Louisiana are in large part an outcome of Katrina. Due to devastating circumstances, innumerable dogs were left to run free without care and breeding multiplied astronomically. Since then, unfortunately economic and mindset challenges have made spaying and neutering a low priority. Through education and awareness this mindset must change but in the meantime rescuers in the area are overwhelmed and in dire need of assistance to prevent widespread euthanasia.

Witnessing the efforts of B.A.R.K. to care for the 107 dogs and find loving homes over the three days was an inspiring experience and feedback from visitors and volunteers alike was extremely positive. Three cheers for Jillian, Julian and Tracey from B.A.R.K., for Tammy and for Petsmart!

As an added note to the Louisiana story, there is something to think about... let us be quick to point fingers at others for not spaying or neutering, the current dilemma we are experiencing in our own region, province and country with our cat population is indeed similar to the canine problem in Louisiana. Spaying and neutering of both dogs AND cats is critical and cannot possibly be over-emphasized. Awareness must increase and owners must act responsibly. Please SPAY and NEUTER and help to spread the word!!!

Does your DOG OWN YOU?

- You have a picture of your dog in your wallet, but not one of your kids.
- You have your dog talk to your friends on the phone.
- You spend more on clothes and food for your dog than you do for yourself.
- Your vet and grooming bills exceed your rent.
- You sit on the floor if the dog got in the chair first.
- When you need someone to talk to, your dog is your first choice.

Does your CAT OWN YOU?

- Do you select your friends based on how well your cats like them?
- Do you sleep in the same position all night because it annoys your cats when you move?
- Do you have more than four opened but rejected cans of cat food in the refrigerator?
- Do you watch bad TV because the cat is sleeping on the remote?



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AUCTION

featuring a Silent & Live Auction

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

Casa Dante Lodge, 34 Lincoln, Welland

Preview of Auction Items: 6:15 p.m.

Delisiozo Pasta Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Guest MC: Chrishon from Giant FM

Tickets: \$30 each

BUY EARLY.... LAST YEAR WE SOLD OUT!!

Proceeds to the Emergency Animal Relief Fund and Cruelty Investigations

WELLAND & DISTRICT Humane Society

PET EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The best way to protect your own family and pets from the effects of an emergency is to have a personal plan in place. In the event of an emergency you may have to leave your home quickly. Your pet relies upon you to take care of him or her. Think about the following and create your own checklist according to your needs and those of your pet:

- Medications and medical records
- Information on feeding times, medical and/or behavioural issues
- Sturdy leashes and/or carriers
- Supply of food and water with bowls
- A picture of your pet(s) in case they get lost
- Litter and litter box for cats
- Pet beds and toys if easily transportable

Ask friends, relatives or others whether they could care for your animals if need be. Contact hotels and motels to check on policies on accepting pets and any restrictions.

Keep the telephone number of your local Humane Society easily accessible....

WDHS 905-835-1552 or 1-888-222-0568

Animals have instincts about severe weather changes and will often isolate themselves if they are afraid. Never leave a pet outside or tied up during a storm... bring your pets in immediately.

If you and your pets must leave your home, make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars that are securely fastened and have ID tags containing up-to-date information; this is particularly important if your pet is not micro-chipped. If you have no alternative but to leave your pets, confine your pets to a safe area inside and place a notice outside in a visible area advising there are pets in the house and where they are located.

While planning ahead is the best bet, with good fortune, the necessity of using these plans will remain a remote possibility.



OUR MEMBERS Are Important To Us!

Membership in the Welland & District SPCA is a commitment which unequivocally reflects the desire to be part of the solution... the solution we seek to prevent cruelty to animals and to provide comfort and care. Members are, in no uncertain terms, a valued part of the WDH5 team. Annual membership dues are a significant source of revenue and are important in helping us protect and care for the animals. Members are kept up-to-date regarding shelter news and events and are eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Unfortunately we are not in a position to give away exciting membership perks as thanks for becoming a member... but what we can give you is our very sincere gratitude and the satisfaction that you are truly making a difference. Indeed, you are helping us meet the challenge and we do know that you will be well satisfied with that rewarding knowledge.

If you are already a member, thank you!! If you are considering becoming a member and a much appreciated part of the WDH5 team, membership applications are available at the Shelter or by emailing Marilyn, our Membership Coordinator at: pawprints@wellandhumaneociety.org

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE:
Individual: \$25, Family: \$35,
Corporate: \$50, Lifetime: \$1,000

Please join the team... we are counting on your support!

Wedding Favours WITH SPECIAL MEANING!

It is often a challenge to find a wedding favour that has a special meaning and will be a gift that continues to give. However, we may have a solution for you. Introducing a wedding favour that will be an expression of your love and compassion....

The Welland & District Humane Society is offering the opportunity to honour your guests by making a donation to help homeless animals. We will provide attractive individual wedding cards which will commemorate the momentous occasion of your marriage and inform your guests that you are indeed "sharing the love". You and your guests will have the true satisfaction of knowing that this is a gift from the heart and one which will make a world of difference to many animals in need.

We will make every effort to colour coordinate the wedding cards to match the colours you have chosen to celebrate your wonderful day or incorporate a special design. Would you like to include a picture of your pet? We can do that!

Decorative donor cards can also be used for wedding or baby showers, birthday parties, etc. - the sky is the limit - we can design cards for any occasion!

For further information, please call the Welland & District SPCA at 905-735-1552 or email: pawprints@wellandhumaneociety.org



AN EXCERPT FROM A LETTER received from a happy adoptive "parent"...

"Just a quick note to update you on TwoToes, who has now been renamed Nosey. His transition into our home has been near perfect. You helped us make an excellent choice. The dog and cat are beginning to come to an understanding. I think that with time, they will become friendly, if not friends.

Many thanks for your patience and assistance with helping us welcome our new family member. I think that you are all amazing at your job. In every staff member I saw recurring traits. Everyone was patient, knowledgeable, kind and professional. Rare it is that you can walk into any business or establishment and find that from every person you deal with. Great job."

....Carey

Facts About SMOKE ALARMS

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY.

Install smoke alarms - it's the law. The Ontario Fire Code requires that every home have working smoke alarms.

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.

Most fatal fires occur at night when people are asleep. Often, victims never wake up. A working smoke alarm will detect smoke and sound an alarm to alert you, giving you precious time to escape.

BUYING THE BEST ALARM.

There are many types of smoke alarms, each with different features. Alarms can be electrically connected, battery powered or a combination of both. This combination - and a pause feature to reduce nuisance alarms - are highly recommended.

ONE SMOKE ALARM IS NOT ENOUGH.

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and near sleeping areas. If you or your loved ones sleep with bedroom doors closed, install an alarm inside each bedroom.

WHERE TO INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS.

Because smoke rises, you should place alarms on the ceiling. If you cannot do this, place them high up on a wall, according to manufacturer's instructions. There are certain locations to avoid such as near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows, or close to ceilings fans.



TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM REGULARLY.

Every month, test your smoke alarms, using the alarm test button. Once a month test your alarms using smoke from a smouldering cotton string. Follow your owner's manual.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY.

Install a new battery of the proper type at least once a year. If the low battery warning beeps, replace the battery immediately. We change our clocks each spring and fall so this is a good time to change your smoke alarm batteries too.

GENTLY VACUUM ALARMS EVERY SIX MONTHS.

Dust can clog a smoke alarm, so carefully vacuum the inside of a battery powered unit using the soft bristle brush. If electrically connected, shut off the power and vacuum the outside vents only. Restore power and test unit when finished.

SMOKE ALARMS DON'T LAST FOREVER.

Smoke alarms do wear out, so if you think your alarms are more than 10 years old, replace them with new ones. Why not replace them with long-life smoke alarms that will eliminate the need for annual battery replacement and the potential hazard of dead batteries for up to 10 years.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE.

Make sure that everyone knows the sound of the smoke alarm and what to do if a fire occurs. Regularly practice your home fire escape plan. Know two ways out of every room and have a pre-arranged meeting place outside. Once out, stay out and call the fire department from a neighbour's

Keeping Safe from the "SILENT KILLER"

The following information is provided by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA). For more information about carbon monoxide safety, visit their website at www.tssa.org, or contact Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services.

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, tasteless and toxic gas and is often referred to as the "silent killer". When inhaled it inhibits the blood's capacity to transport oxygen throughout the body. It can poison the body quickly in high concentrations, or slowly over long periods of time.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

Exposure to CO can cause flu-like symptoms such as headaches, nausea, dizziness, burning eyes, confusion, drowsiness or loss of consciousness. In severe cases, CO poisoning can cause brain damage and death. The elderly, children and people with heart or respiratory conditions may be particularly sensitive to CO.

WHAT ARE SOME DANGER SIGNS?

- You or other members of your family have symptoms of CO exposure (see above).
- You notice a sharp penetrating odour or smell of gas when your furnace or other fuel-burning equipment turns on. The air is stale or stuffy.
- The pilot light of your furnace or other fuel-burning equipment goes out.
- Chalky white powder forms on the chimney exhaust vent pipe or soot build-up occurs around the exhaust vent.

If you suspect carbon monoxide in your home, get out of your house and call 911.

WHERE SHOULD A CO ALARM BE LOCATED IN THE HOME?

Proper placement of a CO alarm is important. In general, the human body is most vulnerable to the effects of CO during sleeping hours, so an alarm should be located in or as near as possible to the sleeping area of the home.

**ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:
PORT COLBORNE FIRE & EMERGENCY
SERVICES 905-834-4512.**

©2008/09



candles

A Glowing Concern!

Over the past few years, the use of candles in the home has greatly increased - and so has the number of fires caused by their misuse. The fire department offers the following tips for the safe use of candles:

Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets. Remember to snuff out your candles if you are leaving the room or going to bed

Secure your candles in sturdy holders and, if possible, place glass chimneys or shades over them. Keep lit candles out of reach of children and pets, well away from any combustible materials. An unattended candle is an invitation to disaster, so don't forget to snuff out your candles before leaving the room or going to bed.

■ REMEMBRANCE: Ceremonies held at Northland Pointe, Port Village

Seniors honour soldiers of yesterday and today

MAGGIE RIOPELLE
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — In remembrance ceremonies last Friday, seniors paid tribute to men and women who lost their lives in the name of freedom.

Ceremonies were held at Northland Pointe and Port Village with Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56 members and residents.

The ceremonies began with a singing of *O Canada*, prayers and then *Last Post*. Many in attendance could be seen drying their eyes during the two minutes of silence, remembering those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

George Akershoek, who read in *Flanders Fields*, had something extra to add when he finished the poem. Born in Holland, Akershoek said he remembers well the day that the Second World War was over.

"They came to set us free... yes, they have not been forgotten for indeed they did succeed," he said.

"I ask you to join with me to applaud those who died and those who still live today."

After the ceremony, Akershoek said at the end of the war he was only 12. He remembered standing in the streets as troops walked by. He was there with many others, waving flags and celebrating in the streets. He said reading in *Flanders Fields* was a great honour for him. "I was 12 years old and I waved and welcomed them in my hometown," he said after the ceremony.

"They came, indeed, to set us free and yes they did set us

Anyone who has gone through it doesn't forget.

George Akershoek

free. Anyone who has gone through it doesn't forget. There's not many (veterans) left and I think the government should give them everything they need. They lie in Flanders Fields but we are free and it was proven here this morning, that we have not forgotten."

Mayor Vance Badawey, who attended both services, said Canadians not only remember the sacrifices on Remembrance Day when they wear their poppies, but they remember every day when they pick up a newspaper or watch TV and see soldiers are still fighting for freedom.

"How important it is to come together as a community to wear our poppies with pride shoulder to shoulder to remember those who lost their lives," he said.

He said the ceremonies pay tribute not only to soldiers but to their families and shows how important those soldiers are in the hearts of many. There should also be time to honour those who continue to fight in places such as Afghanistan, he said.

"We also remember those who continuing to fight on our behalf to preserve the freedoms we have in this country and to extend that to other areas of the world."



MAGGIE RIOPELLE Staff Photo

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56 members, from left, poppy chairperson Jessie Thompson, Nevada chairperson Phyllis Hewitt and secretary Eleanor Hewitt participated in the Remembrance Day ceremony at Northland Pointe on Nov. 6.

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PORT COLBORNE

■ **TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY:** Students get a glimpse of the world of employment

Learning beyond the classroom

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It was a day of exploration in machine shops, schools, construction sites and for processing payments at city hall and assuming various business tasks as Grade 9 students took part in Take Our Kids to Work Day.

Last Wednesday's day of exploration saw thousands of students make their way to the workplace of their parent, guardian or relative to explore the world of work.

Port Colborne High school's Kyle van Dillen explored his father's workplace at Thurston Machine Co. Ltd. Van Dillen skipped his father's accounting desk, opting instead to don coveralls and try his hand at welding and other small jobs.

"Using the crane was the best part of the day," he said.

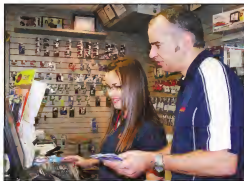
"It's fun and you get to see a lot of different machines you don't know about."

Thurston produces steel mill and mining equipment that is shipped around the world. The company employs between 50 and 70 people.

Yesterday van Dillen and two other teens helped with the construction of off-road dump trucks by welding a dump truck box together and machining other large parts.

Matthew Deschamps of Lakeshore Catholic High School said at Thurston — his uncle's workplace — he saw "things here I never thought would exist." He said spending the day at Thurston was a good way to explore different trades, while he had the opportunity to do some painting and odd jobs. "I want to work as a welder in a factory," he said. "I'm learning more than I would in school."

See **TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY** | Page 16



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Farrah Giabb rings in a customer with her father Marty at Mine's Radio Shoppe/The Source last week. The Grade 9 Port Colborne High School student spent the day at her father's shop for Take Our Kids to Work Day.

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Nominations will be accepted until November 30th.

RECIPE of the Week

Nov. 13th to Nov. 19th

Our Port Country Pantry's

Chocolate Pumpkin Pudding

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Spray four 4 oz. ramekins with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside.
2. In a microwave-safe bowl, melt chocolate chips in 30-second intervals, stirring after each one until completely melted.
3. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Spoon mixture into Ramekins.
4. Place in preheated oven and bake for 20-25 minutes, until top is firm. Let cool 5 minutes and enjoy.

Makes 4 servings

INGREDIENTS

1. 1 cup Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
2. 1 1/4 cups canned pumpkin
- 1 tbsp. Cornstarch
- 2 tsp. Ground Cinnamon
- 1 tsp. Ground Ginger
- 1 tsp. Ground Nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. Vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp. Sea Salt

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■ TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY

Real life learning all in a day's work

FROM PAGE 14

For Farrar Glabb, continuing the family business isn't in her immediate future. She spent last Wednesday at Mione's Radio Shoppe with her father. Working in Canada's oldest electronics store, which opened in 1929, Glabb stocked shelves, rang people through the cash register and completed other odd jobs.

"I don't think I want to own a business, I want to be a teacher," she said.

For years, Grade 9 students across Canada have taken part in Take Our Kids to Work Day. Marisa Brown-Benson, school career connections counsellor with the Business Education Council of Niagara, said about 5,000 students visited different workplaces in the region.

"Initially it was for students to see their parent/guardian at work to see what they did. It evolved to be short-term career exploration."

Brown-Benson said the day also provides teens an opportunity to see their parents in a different light. The event is supported by the Business Education Council, which co-ordinates behind-the-scenes work. "It's a good learning experience," she said.

■ MONEY

Business development gets a boost

MARK TAYTI

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Businesses and non-profit groups looking for necessary capital to get plans off the drawing board and into action may need look no further.

South Niagara Community Futures Development Corp. (SNCFDC) is sitting on \$500,000 to help with business development, skills development and internships, local initiatives and building community capacity.

Terry Kaddwell, community economic development manager for South Niagara Community Futures, said the agency will be accepting applications, with deadlines set for the last Friday of each month, until the fund is depleted. The money is part of \$1,025,000 received through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

Kaddwell said \$450,000 was for business development loans. \$500,000 was stimulus money intended to help non-profit groups and businesses in the short term and the rest was to help with operating costs at SNCFDC.

• The purpose of the business development initiative is to support the growth of new and existing entrepreneurs by providing grants for marketing plans and feasibility studies; research and development initiatives; and other activities designed to stimulate business opportunities.

• The skills development and internships component of the program is intended for community-based initiatives which support the development of the labour force that will meet the needs of the business community, encourage new local entrepreneurs and attract external investment within south Niagara.

• The local initiatives component is to support local community-based initiatives which enhance the community capacity for community economic development and diversification within south Niagara.

• The purpose of the community capacity component is to strengthen communities by supporting community economic development projects that are incremental, address local needs and priorities and result in long-term benefits including job creation, economic diversification, and enhanced business competitiveness.

Projects must demonstrate significant impact on the enhancement of the local business community and/or the community as a whole. Applicants must demonstrate evidence of support from partners in the private sector, community organizations, municipalities, and/or the provincial government.

The funding is available to private businesses, corporations, municipalities, community development and non-profit agencies. Eligible activities include such things as research, business and marketing plan development — including websites, development of export plans and activities, feasibility studies, research and development initiatives, and strategic plans.

Kaddwell said the program covers between 90% and 100% of the cost. He said the deadline for having the money spent is March 30, 2010. "The whole idea is to get the money out the door as quickly as possible," Kaddwell said.

Applications are available at www.southniagaracfd.com. Contact Kathy Capercione, program coordinator at 905-834-0911 or Terry Kaddwell, community development manager at 905-834-2173.

mtayti@wellandtribune.ca



PORT COLBORNE

NOTICE TO CITIZENS APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The City of Port Colborne is accepting applications from citizens for positions on boards and committees. The vacancies are due to the expiry of current appointments on December 31, 2009 or resignations or insufficient applications in response to prior recruitments. Positions are available on the following Boards/Committees:

- Advisory Committee on Council Remuneration
- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Heritage Port Colborne
- Port Colborne Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum Board
- Port Colborne Trails & Bikeways Committee
- Port Colborne Transit Advisory Committee
- Port Colborne/Wainfleet Physician Recruitment, Retention and Medical Education Committee
- Seniors Advisory Council (also advertised separately)
- Sugarloaf Harbour Marina Advisory Board

Appointments to fill expired terms will be for four years. Appointments to fill other vacancies will be for the term of the original appointment. Incumbent members whose terms are expiring are eligible to apply and to be reappointed to the same Committee provided they maintain the eligibility requirements.

On November 10, 2008, Council adopted a policy respecting appointments to boards and committees. This policy establishes the process relating to the recruitment, selection and appointment of members of public to boards and committees and the City's expectations of such appointees. The policy requires that the successful applicants consent to the release by the City of their name and personal information relating to their education, qualifications and experience which is pertinent to the appointment. Council will release the name of an unsuccessful applicant only with the written consent of the applicant. Please visit the City's website www.portcolborne.ca to access the full text of the new policy and a brief description of the mandate of the above Committees etc.

Unless the terms of reference of the board/committee provide otherwise, applicants must:

- be eighteen years of age or older
- be a qualified municipal elector in the City of Port Colborne
- not be disqualified by the Municipal Act, Municipal Election Act or the Planning Act
- not be an employee of the City of Port Colborne or the board.

Applicants must provide sufficient information regarding their qualifications and related experience for Council to make an informed decision. The standard form of application is available on the City's website and/or from the Clerk's Office.

Applications in person, by e-mail or regular mail will be received by the undersigned up to and including November 27, 2009.

Janet Beckett, City Clerk
City Hall, 66 Charlotte St.
Port Colborne, ON L9K 3C8
janbeckett@portcolborne.ca
(905) 835-2901 ext. 106

Personal information is collected under authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and pursuant to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only to evaluate the suitability of applicants. Questions respecting the collection of information should be directed to the Clerk of the City of Port Colborne.

B-1011

■ RECREATION

A bumpy ride for ATV use on trail

KARENA WALTER

Sun Media

Large dirt holes from illegal vehicles and concerns about public safety have the Greater Niagara Circle Route committee urging municipalities to form a common enforcement bylaw.

At issue is the Welland Canal East Side Trail, an unpaved section that extends from Thorold to Port Colborne. The trail has had problems with all-terrain vehicle use and vandalism.

"Off-road vehicles leave divots in the trail," said Rob Gabriel, a Thorold regional councillor and vice-chair of the committee. "There are all-terrain vehicles using the trail."

Niagara municipalities have their own laws, but the committee wants a single bylaw to make enforcement and signage easier. It made a presentation to Thorold council last week to emphasize the point and will meet with Welland councillors next month.

The multi-use trail has several member groups, including horseback riders, snowmobilers, motorcyclists and mountain bikers. ATVs are not permitted.

"We call it the wild side," committee chairman Bruce Timms said. "There's motorcycles, horses. Everybody knows their jobs and uses their."

Timms said the user groups, such as Upper Canada Equestrian Association, are recognized clubs that are part of provincewide organizations with liability insurance.

What we're trying to do is develop a legal trail to alleviate some of the nuisance complaints

Gerry Stull, Quad Niagara ATV Club

There was no ATV organization when the trail opened, but Quad Niagara ATV Club has since formed and joined the circle route committee.

The club is hoping to eventually sign onto the lease, but that's not yet on the table.

Quad Niagara president Gerry Stull said the group has made presentations to eight of the 12 Niagara municipalities to lobby for a legalized trail anywhere in the region. The group has been met with mixed responses. Currently, ATVs are only allowed on private property.

"ATVs are a major nuisance in the Niagara region. What we're trying to do is develop a legal trail to alleviate some of the nuisance complaints," Stull said.

Stull compared the ATV situation with that of skateboarders who attracted complaints before they were given skate parks a few years ago. He said there are facilities now for all groups except ATVs.

"We want to promote safe and responsible riding," Stull said. "The problem now is it's a free-for-all."

Gabriel said the Greater Niagara Circle Route committee wants the bylaw issue settled before it looks at the broader issue of including ATVs. He said the group plans to see how enforcement works out with current user groups first.

The East Side Trail is owned by the St. Lawrence Seaway and leased by the Niagara Region and municipalities.

Drew Semple, a Niagara Region senior planner, said Thorold, Welland and Port Colborne have similar bylaws, but are trying to have the same provisions and fine structure to make them more enforceable by police.

Timms said a common bylaw will give users the ability to point to a bylaw or sign when trying to get others to abide by the rules.

"They can give them the rules and etiquette, one ATV guy to another ATV guy, one motorcycle guy to another motorcycle guy."

■ sports

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LAKERS TOP SHEA'S SERVICE CENTRE GRIZZLIES

Led by Jared Theisen's 22 points, the Knights of Columbus Lakers (2-2) defeated Shea's Service Centre Grizzlies 50-42 to even their record in the Port Colborne Youth atom division basketball league.

Helping Thalen was Steve Wilcox who poured in 14 points. Tessa Sherk added eight points. Danielle Bloudeau, Maggie Sider and Noah Chevrolet each netted two points. Leading Shea's (1-3) were Dylan Balogh and Mike Pomkowski with 18 and 12 points respectively.

Sydney Garon and Hannah Donofrio each had six to round out the scoring.

In other league action CT Whalers bounced the Davidson Funeral Home Raptors 28-23. Mike Benson, Daniels Rock and Ethan Scott each had six points to pace the Whalers (3-1).

Aaron Berner and Jonathan Gamble added four and Baxter Pearson completed the scoring with one bucket.

For the Davidson Funeral Home Raptors (2-2), Matt Traynor's 16 points led the scoring. Amanda Lallouet added 4; Dave Biggar 2 and Katrina Arcand sank one free throw for a point. Atom teams play every Saturday at Lakeshore Catholic High School.

—InPort News Staff



NOTICE TO CITIZENS APPOINTMENTS TO SENIORS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The City of Port Colborne is accepting applications from residents fifty-five years and older for positions on the newly created **Port Colborne Seniors Advisory Council**.

The purpose of the Port Colborne Seniors Advisory Council is to:

1. Advise City Council with respect to issues which have or will have an impact on Port Colborne's seniors; and
2. Advise City Council with respect to ways in which Port Colborne can become a more age-friendly community for persons of all ages and ability levels; and
3. Identify and advise City Council with respect to opportunities to establish policies, services and structures that support and enable seniors to live in security, enjoy good health and continue to participate fully in society.

Five positions are available to be filled and initial appointments will be for terms from 1 to 4 years. Successful candidates will serve on a volunteer basis.

On November 10, 2008, Council adopted a policy respecting appointments to boards and committees. This policy establishes the process relating to the recruitment, selection and appointment of members of the public to boards and committees and the City's expectations of such appointees. The policy requires that the successful applicants consent to the release by the City of their name and personal information relating to their education, qualifications and experience which is pertinent to the appointment. Council will release the name of an unsuccessful applicant only with the written consent of the applicant. Please visit the City's website www.portcolborne.ca to access the full text of the new policy and a brief description of the mandate of the above Committee etc.

Unless the terms of reference of the board/committee provide otherwise, applicants must:

- be a qualified municipal elector in the City of Port Colborne
- not be disqualified by the Municipal Act, Municipal Elections Act or the Planning Act
- not be an employee of the City of Port Colborne or the board.

Applicants must provide sufficient information regarding their qualifications and related experience for Council to make an informed decision. The standard form of application is available on the City's website and/or from the Clerk's Office.

Applications in person, by e-mail or regular mail will be received by the undersigned up to and including November 27, 2009.

Janet Beckett, City Clerk
City Hall, 66 Charlotte St.
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■ **PEOPLE, PLACES:** The Lions Food Drive; Katharine's Cause fundraiser; Niagara College's royal visit

It's a wonderful life right here in Port Colborne



George Duma

by GEORGE

This incredible little city by the lake never ceases to amaze me. It's like we have our own version of *It's a Wonderful Life* right here in front of us.

The spirit of giving here is never limited to seasons like Christmas. It's year-round. Last Saturday once again gave me pause to consider and realize just how blessed we are to live where we do.

It began in the morning as dozens and dozens of volunteers gathered at Christian Life Assembly on Barkid Rd. to kick off this year's Lions Food Drive. As always, the teams gathered in the church hall to get organized before they fanned out across the city to begin the task of gathering up the goods from people's doorsteps.

Our team had the same area we've had for years — Welland Ave. to the west, McKee St. to the east, Fraser St. to the south and Kilbaly St. to the north.

It was being particularly poignant for me during the last couple of years because the leader of our team and one of the food-drive founders, Bill Kantymit, passed on and his daughter Mary-Ann has taken his spot as our team leader. Mary-Ann bought Dad's Chevy Suburban from her mom so we even have the same vehicle we've always used.

It's no great secret that our area in the food drive has been hit hard by unemployment in the last year. Early in the route, I showed — donations were far down from previous years and the Suburban was not filling up. But that changed as the morning progressed and by the time we were done, the vehicle was just as jammed with food as it has ever been. That's what I mean by being blessed to live here.

If there is a need, always a request for help, all Port Colborne needs is to be asked. City folks here are always, always come through. By the time we got back to the church to unload, it was clear this would be another



Submitted Photo

A gathering of volunteers that included friends and family helped set everything up at Brebeuf Hall Friday night prior to the Katharine's Cause fundraiser held Saturday night. Katharine VanPatten is battling a rare form of cancer named Leiomyosarcoma that requires regular trips to Houston, Texas. Surrounding Katharine Friday are her uncles Ken, Larry, Harvey and Barry Snider.

successful food drive. Incredible.

Katharine's Cause
The goodwill continued into Saturday evening.

InPort News readers may have read recently either in this space or in an article by Kaesha Forand about my niece, Katharine VanPatten (formerly Neumann).

Katharine has a rare form of cancer named Leiomyosarcoma. Though she's a Port Colborne native, she currently lives in Buffalo with her husband Dave and two-and-a-half year old son Lawson. Her illness requires her to make regular trips to Houston, home to one of the top oncology hospitals in the world. The trips are not cheap.

Lead by childhood friend Shawna Green, a group of friends and family members were busy since the summer organizing a tag-and-doe-type fundraiser to help Katharine and Dave with their expenses. It was held Saturday night at Brebeuf Hall on Kilbaly St.

Anyone who has been involved with an event like this knows how unpredictable the results can be. Though hundreds of tickets were pre-sold, there is no way of

knowing how many people will actually come.

I'll always buy a tag-and-doe ticket even if I don't know the couple, just to support the cause. I am not always able to attend, however.

Well, it became clear early in the evening that people were going to come. Doors opened at 7 p.m. and people began streaming in through the front door. The evening went until 1 a.m. There were prizes, a penny sale, silent auction great food punctuated by Chuck Simpson's roast pig, and more. During the course of the six hours, literally hundreds and hundreds of people passed through Brebeuf Hall. Incidentally, this is one of the most beautiful facilities I can imagine in which to stage a special event such as this.

The outpouring of support and affection was mind-boggling. And I don't only mean from the people who came out for the event but from the dozens of volunteers who helped, both leading up to Saturday evening and during the evening as well.

My overwhelming emotion all Saturday evening was one of thankfulness, both for the amazing spirit in the room and for the fact that I was able to be a part of it.



GEORGE DUMA

inPort News Photo

From left, Paul Morin, his wife Charlene and Tish Snider had a chance to visit at Katharine's Cause on Saturday.

Living in Port is actually not like living in a town or city at all. It's like living in a large extended family. And in a huge warm embrace.

Royal visit

It's not every day royalty shows up at your place of employment. And whether one supports the idea of the monarchy or not, it's a big deal when someone like the Prince of Wales does pay a visit.

Such it was last Thursday when Prince Charles came to Niagara College's Niagara-on-the-Lake campus to help open the new Wine Visitor and Education Centre. The gorgeous new facility is part of the college's teaching winery.

"This is an historic day for the students, faculty and staff of Niagara College, and it is a tremendous honour to welcome His Royal Highness," Niagara College President Dan Patterson said. "This visit offers an extraordinary opportunity to showcase our students, our college, and the important work all Canadian colleges do in preparing skilled, job-ready graduates who drive our key industries."

See BY GEORGE | Page 19

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■ BY GEORGE

Niagara College welcomes the Prince of Wales

FROM PAGE 17

It was almost a month ago to the day of Prince Charles's visit that Prime Minister Stephen Harper paid a visit to the Welland campus so it's certainly been an eventful fall.

The Prince of Wales is actually a very charming man. Upon arriving in a storm, he promptly grabbed an umbrella from one of his handlers and proceeded to do a meet-and-greet with many of the 300 or so

who had come out to welcome him in the miserable weather.

He was given a tour of Niagara College's new wine centre and the college's teaching vineyards. Following the tour, at an industry reception, Charles unveiled a plaque commemorating his visit during the centre's opening.

It'll all in a day's work for the Prince of Wales. But for us at the college, it was a day to be remembered for a long time.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and suggestions, and can be reached at gduma@cogeco.ca.

Submitted Photo

Prince



SPOTLIGHT on service

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #3

NIAGARA TO GTA CORRIDOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY PHASE 1

The public is invited to attend the third round of Public Information Centres (PICs) to review and comment on the transportation alternatives under consideration in the Niagara to GTA (NGTA) corridor.

Study team members will be available to answer questions and receive comments. PIC #3 will be held on:

Tuesday November 24, 2009 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Royal Canadian Legion Upstairs Hall 363 Morningstar Avenue, Welland	Thursday November 26, 2009 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ancaster Fairgrounds Main Hall 630 Trinity Road, Jerseyville	Thursday December 1, 2009 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Holiday Inn Burlington Hilton Hall 3063 South Service Road, Burlington
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Information to be presented at the PICs will be available on the study website beginning on November 24, 2009.

Comments may also be submitted via the study website at: www.niagara-gta.com.

THE STUDY

Phase 1 of the Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for the NGTA Corridor, initiated by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), will support the transportation objectives of the provincial Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe by providing for the efficient movement of people and goods within the corridor.

Phase 1 of this study includes the following key steps:

- Develop a Study Plan (PIC #1);
- Identify transportation problems and opportunities (PIC #2);
- Identify and assess transportation alternatives that address the identified problems and opportunities (PIC #3); and
- Select preferred transportation alternative(s) and recommend a multi-modal Transportation Development Strategy for future work (PIC #4).

Since the last round of Public Information Centres (PICs #2), the following has been completed:

- The Craft Area Transportation System Problems and Opportunities Report was made available for public review in July 2009;
- Consultation with Municipalities and Advisory Groups regarding the generation of alternatives and the process for assessing alternatives;
- Development of individual Transportation System Alternatives and Draft Discussion Papers for each Transportation Mode;
- Development of Combination Transportation Alternatives; and
- Assessment of the individual and Combination Alternatives.

THE PROCESS

The Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and EA study is being undertaken in accordance with the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act) and the Niagara to GTA Corridor Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference, which was approved by the Minister of the Environment in June 2006.

COMMENTS

Comments and information regarding this study will be collected to assist the MTO. This material will be maintained on the far use during the project and may be included in project documentation to meet the requirements of the EA Act. Information collected will be used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Access to Information Act. With the exception of personal information (e.g., name and address), all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information, or to be added to the mailing list for this study, please visit the study website or contact:

Mr. Roger Ward
MTO Study Team Lead
Ontario Ministry of Transportation
Provincial and Environmental Planning Office
2nd Floor, 301 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 7H4
Tel.: 905-704-2214
Fax: 905-704-2007

Mr. Paul Hudspeth, P.Eng.
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URS Canada Inc.
75 Commerce Valley Drive East
Markham, Ontario, L3T 7M9
Tel.: 905-882-4401
Fax: 905-882-4398

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■ FOOD DRIVE: Bikers kick giving into high gear



Submitted Photo

Bikers Right's Organization Port Colborne is kicking off its second annual secret Santa food drive with Port Carles. Non-perishable food items or cash donations can be dropped off at the Belmont, Parkers Pier, the Funky Monkey or the Canadian Corps until Dec. 12. Tinky Parker from Parker's Pier, Brant Lennie from Port Carles, food drive co-ordinator Brad (Juicy) Outler, Port Colborne vice chairman Mike Labreche and Alex Bobic of the Belmont were all on hand for the food drive launch on Saturday.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

We shouldn't need a Thanksgiving reminder

MAHLON MARTIN
Port Village Bible Chapel

We need to display an attitude of gratitude.

We are about a month past our Canadian Thanksgiving and about a week before the American Thanksgiving, so we are surely in the Thanksgiving season. We really shouldn't need a Thanksgiving reminder. We have so much for which to give thanks.

We have many freedoms and privileges here in Canada some other countries wouldn't even dream of. In this article, I want this thought of thankfulness.

Let me first say a word about our human plague of being unthankful. It seems to be our natural instinct to take things for granted. Jesus told of an incident where he had cleansed 10 lepers and only one returned to say thank you. It seems the other nine just went on their way and enjoyed their new health.

I was with a group of fellows that went for coffee. One of them brought an extra one for someone who wasn't with us. The recipient just took it and drank it. The one that brought it said, "The least he could have done is say, 'thanks.'"

I sure do appreciate our freedom of religion. Both public proclamation and public gatherings are very special benefits.

People from oppressed countries have told me

when they meet, they only arrive one or two at a time, so they aren't suspected of hosting a public religious gathering because, if they are discovered, the whole congregation may be arrested and persecuted or imprisoned. When they sing or speak, it must be done in low tones for the same reason.

We have an excellent health care system. I recognize it's not perfect. I know it's been greatly criticized. It has been my experience, that if something looks serious, they will have time to get the matter attended to.

Many of us, particularly those who are older, use many medications. We only pay a small user fee. We had to pay the full price, in many cases, we would have to quit using the material. We just couldn't afford it.

This present recession has proven we have a very good financial system. We were not hit as hard as some other countries. We are being told we are starting to recover. Our banking system still seems very reliable.

Our greatest and our most frequently expressed item of thanksgiving must be to God. We need to reaffirm our gratitude to him for his goodness and mercy every day. "That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the just and on the unjust, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:45)

See I'VE BEEN THINKING, THANKSGIVING | Page 16

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

Volunteer firefighters now qualify for benefits

MAGGIE RIOPELLE
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Volunteer firefighters will now be able to qualify for benefits under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act for fire-related illnesses.

"Firefighting is dangerous whether you receive a paycheck or not," said Port Colborne fire Chief Tom Cartwright — the fire department has 35 volunteers. "It's long overdue... firefighter is a firefighter. In most cases they do the same job."

The province has established a new regulation which presumes that eight types of cancer, as well as heart injuries within 24 hours of fighting a fire or a training exercise — suffered by these workers, would be work-related, unless proven otherwise.

The regulation will apply firefighters from the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal who meet certain conditions and to diseases diagnosed or heart injuries sustained on or after Jan. 1, 1960, the news release from the province explained.

"I think this is an enormous step forward in recognition of the health related risk they go through," said Wainfleet fire Chief Chris Cole of the new regulation that would impact 40 volunteers with the Wainfleet fire department.

mriopelle@wellandtribune.ca

I'VE BEEN THINKING, THANKSGIVING

Adopt an attitude of gratitude

FROM PAGE 23

"That is only the start of His many mercies. He gives us health and strength, soundness of mind. He loves us and showed His love through His supreme gift, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:14-17)

God has done his part. We must now do ours. When we receive eternal life, it comes to us as an absolute gift. It is impossible to work for it or pay for it.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

I believe that we must now repent of our sin — that is, agree with God when he says we have sinned. Tell God we are sorry for the sins we have committed. We then invite Jesus into our life and receive as the risen Lord and saviour. He is then on the throne of our lives.

I believe we will need to read the Bible every day and learn how our life should be run. Anyone may read the Bible, just ask God to help you understand it.

I recommend that people find a good Bible-believing church, and attend and support it regularly. Just be sure the teachings of the church agree with the Bible.

I also believe that it should be a settled fact in your mind to believe and practice what the Bible says.